

The Morning After Pill {MAP} aka 'Emergency Contraception'*

{courtesy of American Life League, Concerned Women for America,
[www. epigee.org](http://www.epigee.org), et al)

** in actuality, an abortifacient*

Preven

MORNING-AFTER PILL

The Morning-After "Pill," or Emergency Contraceptive Pills (ECP), are actually a large dose of ordinary oral contraceptives taken after intercourse has occurred. ECPs were first used in the 1960's for rape victims, but recently the FDA has begun promoting oral contraceptives for emergency use when a woman has had unprotected intercourse within the previous 72 hours.

Morning-after treatment works in the same way as other hormonal methods, by suppressing ovulation, making the uterus inhospitable to the newly conceived human being, and interfering with the movement of the ovum.

Morning-after pills can only be obtained from a doctor. The doctor may require that the patient sign a contract indicating that she is aware of the health risks and will consider abortion if the treatment fails, even though there is no evidence that oral contraceptive pills would harm the baby. Morning-after treatment is thought to be 75% effective. Common side effects are nausea and vomiting.

You need to know the truth!

Lie #1

Jennifer Kessel, a spokeswoman for Roberts Pharmaceuticals, the Canadian manufacturer of Preven, says "There's different definitions [of pregnancy] depending on where you live. Most doctors would say pregnancy begins at implantation. Only 'anti-abortionists' would say life begins 'when the sperm meets the egg. Period.' Pregnancy begins when a woman is 'comfortable' with it beginning, she adds. It depends on your own personal views and what you want to believe." (Reading: Celeste McGovern, "Marketers of the Preven 'Morning After Pill' Are Engaged in Re-Defining Pregnancy," The Report Newsmagazine, 12/6/99, <http://www.report.ca>)

The truth

Check out the website of Epigee for more information on the risks of chemical contraceptives/abortifacients: <http://www.epigee.org/guide/hormonal.html#map>

Lie # 2:

Planned Parenthood of Central Washington's web site tells visitors, "[The morning after pill] prevents the ovaries from releasing an egg, or changes the lining of the uterus so

that a fertilized egg will not implant (conception will be prevented), and a pregnancy will not develop."

The truth: COMMENT (by American Life League):

How many lies can you fit into one sentence? We count two:

(1) There is no such thing as a fertilized egg; there is a unique human being who results from the union of sperm and egg. (2) Conception is the same as fertilization, and when it occurs, pregnancy has begun. (Reading: "Emergency Contraception," <http://www.owt.com/ppcw/mornafr.html>)

Lie #3:

The Washington Post published an Associated Press story in which the statement is made "The morning-after pill prevents the fertilized egg from being implanted in the womb."

The truth:

Embryologist Keith Moore describes morning-after pills in his sixth edition of his textbook: "These hormones prevent implantation, not fertilization. Consequently, they should not be called contraceptive pills. Conception occurs but the blastocyst does not implant. It would be more appropriate to call them 'contraimplantation pills.' Because the term 'abortion' refers to a premature stoppage of a pregnancy, the term 'abortion' could be applied to such an early termination of pregnancy." (page 532) (Reading: "French Schools to Give Out Pill," Washington Post, 11/29/99, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/aponline/19991129/aponline211740_000.htm; Quotation from "The Developing Human, Clinically Oriented Embryology," Moore and Persaud, <http://www.all.org/news/980911.htm>)

Do birth control chemicals have unpleasant side-effects or health hazards? YES!

Combined OCs : **Common Side-Effects**

Weight gain	Acne or dark-colored areas on face
Nausea/Vomiting (especially at the beginning)	
Dizziness	Headache
Acne and/or oily skin	Weight gain
High blood pressure	Less Common Serious Health Hazards
Blood clots in lung or brain, stroke	Liver tumors
Heart attacks	Gallbladder disease
	Cancer

Progestin-Only Methods : **Common Side-Effects**

Untimely bleeding or spotting between periods	
Prolonged menstrual bleeding (8 days or more)	
No bleeding at all (amenorrhea) for several months or over a year	
Headache (very common)	Nervousness/anxiety
Lower abdominal pain	Dizziness

Loss of sex drive (libido)	Depression
Acne and/or oily skin	Change of appetite
Weight gain	
Breast tenderness (mastalgia)	
Increased facial or body hair growth (hirsutism) or hair loss	
Whitish vaginal discharge (leukorrhea).	
Excessive growth of body/facial hair or hair loss	
Infection the implants site for Norplant	
A brief period of pain or itching	
Enlarged ovarian follicles	Bone density loss

Less Common Serious Health Hazards

Ectopic pregnancy	Cancer
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Will I gain weight if I start the Pill, and if so how much?

There is no one answer to this question. The weight gain response to hormonal birth control varies on an individual basis. For most women, extra female hormones make fat deposition easier and increase the appetite. Weight gain is a very common side effect, especially for Depo-Provera for which weight gain can be extreme. Conversely, weight loss usually becomes easier when hormonal birth control is discontinued.